

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LISBON 03702 01 OF 02 210636Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01  
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 TRSE-00 /099 W  
-----070659 210640Z /13/13

R 181516Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5757  
INFO AMEMBASSY CAPETOWN  
USINT HAVANA  
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
AMCONSUL OPORTO  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LISBON 3702

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT CORRECTED)

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3  
TAGS: PINS PINT AO PO  
SUBJ: EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON ANGOLA

SUMMARY: EMBASSY OFFICER MET WITH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS (MFA) AFRICAN DIRECTOR MAY 16 TO EXCHANGE IN-  
FORMATION ON ANGOLA. GOP CONCURS IN ACCURACY OF  
INFORMATION PREVIOUSLY PROVIDED BY EMBASSY, AND OFFERED  
BITS AND PIECES OF NEW INFORMATION. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBOFF MET WITH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS DIRECTOR  
OF AFRICA DIVISION DR. PAULOIRO DES NEVES MAY 16 TO  
DISCUSS ANGOLA. EMBOFF HAD PREVIOUSLY  
PROVIDED NEVES WITH SANITIZES VERSIONS OF:  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LISBON 03702 01 OF 02 210636Z

--AMBASSADOR EASUM'S LUANDA REPORT (LAGOS 1955)  
--THE INR REPORT ON ANGOLA AND NAMIBIA (STATE 084889)  
--UNITA STRENGTH ASSESSMENT (STATE 089731)  
--ANGOLA/ZAIREAN RELATIONS (STATE 54529)  
--CABINDAN FACTIONALISM AND REFUGEES REPORT (KINSHASA 2084)

2. MFA EVALUATION: NEVES SAID HE HAD REVIEWED THE ABOVE

INFORMATION WITH PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR TO ANGOLA SA COUTINHO DURING THE LATTER'S RECENT CONSULTATIONS IN LISBON. NEVES AND SA COUTINHO CONCURRED THAT THE INFORMATION WAS ACCURATE AND BASICALLY AGREED WITH PORTUGUESE ASSESSMENTS. SA COUTINHO HAD STATED HIS STRONG AGREEMENT WITH THE DEPT VIEW THAT THE MPLA GOVERNMENT BELIEVES AN INDEPENDENT NAMIBIA WOULD CRITICALLY IMPAIR UNITA'S ABILITY TO WAGE WAR. BUT SA COUTINHO EMPHASIZES THAT THE MPLA'S PERCEPTION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF SOUTH AFRICAN ASSISTANCE TO UNITA IS OVERDRAWN AND SAID THAT UNITA COULD CONTINUE AS AN EFFECTIVE FIGHTING FORCE EVEN WITH AN INDEPENDENT NAMIBIA.

3. RECENT PORTUGUESE INFORMATION: NEVES SAID RECENT IMPORTS HAD SLIGHTLY EASED FOOD SHORTAGES IN LUANDA. HE ADDED THAT ANGOLANS HAVE LOST FAITH IN ANGOLA'S CURRENCY AND INCREASINGLY ARE RESORTING TO BARTER.

--NETO' HEALTH: ALTHOUGH THE GOP BELIEVES NETO SUFFERS FROM KIDNEY AND HEART PROBLEMS, IT STILL HAS NO ACCURATE INFORMATION ON THE CURRENT STATE OF HIS HEALTH, NOR THE REASON FOR HIS TRIP TO THE USSR. HOWEVER, NETO'S RECENT TV APPEARANCES SHOW AN APPARENTLY ROBUST AND HEALTHY PRESIDENT. -- LUANDA TENSE: BECAUSE OF THE UNCERTAINTY ACCOMPANYING NETO'S ABSENCE, LUANDA HAD BEEN MARKED BY A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN TENSION. THE PORTUGUESE EMBASSY REPORTED STEPPED UP POLITICAL ACTIVITIES BY SOME MEMBERS OF THE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LISBON 03702 01 OF 02 210636Z

GOVERNMENT, NAMELY DOS SANTOS, NASCIMENTO, AND IKO CARREIRA, WHO WERE PROMINENT IN THE MEDIA. NEVES BELIEVED THE ACTIVITY INDICATED THAT SOME IN THE GOVERNMENT WERE MAKING AT LEAST CONTINGENCY PLANS IN THE EVENT OF NETO'S DEMISE.

-- RELIGION UNDER FIRE. ATTACKS ON THE CHURCH ARE CONTINUING DESPITE ADVERSE POPULAR REACTION TO EARLIER ATTACKS. NEVES SAID THAT A MISSIONARY ORDER HAD RECENTLY BEEN GIVEN 48 HOURS TO ABANDON ITS LARGE INSTALLATION BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT WANTED THE PROPERTY.

--SOUTH AFRICAN ATTACK: THE GOP WAS CURIOUS AS TO WHY THE CUBANS AND SOVIETS APPARENTLY HAD DECLINED TO USE AIR POWER AGAINST SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES DURING THE CASSINGA ATTACK. DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE GPRA HAS A MAJOR AIR BASE WITH MIG FIGHTERS ONLY 12 KMS FROM CASSINGA. NEVES TERMED THE SOUTH AFRICAN ATTACK "VICIOUS." INFORMATION WHICH THE PORTUGUESE HAD OBTAINED SUPPORTED ANGOLAN CLAIMS THAT MANY CIVILIANS AND REFUGEES HAD BEEN KILLED. NEVES THOUGHT THE ATTACK ALMOST SURELY WOULD DAMPEN THE GPRA DESIRE TO PRESSURE SWAPO ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROPOSALS, AND WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO GPRA DEPENDENCY ON A STRONG CUBAN PRESENCE. NEVES ASKED IF THE USG HAD ANY INFORMATION ON

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF CUBAN MILITARY TRAINING OF FAPLA  
FORCES, AND IF WE THOUGHT FAPLA FORCES HAD IMPROVED IN  
EFFECTIVENESS.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LISBON 03702 02 OF 02 191049Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01  
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 TRSE-00 /099 W  
-----037160 191106Z /10

R 181516Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5758  
INFO AMEMBASSY CAPETOWN  
USINT HAVANA  
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
AMCONSUL OPORTO  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 LISBON 3702

--BENGUELA CONSULATE: THE GPRA HAS GIVEN THE GOP PER-  
MISSION TO OPEN A CONSULATE IN BENGUELA. NEVES ACKNOWLEDGED  
THE OPPORTUNITY THE GOP HAS BEEN PRESENTED, BUT ADDED  
RUEFULLY THAT THE GOP PROBLEM WILL BE TO FIND PERSONNEL  
TO SERVE THERE.

--GPRA AMBASSADOR: GPRA AMBASSADOR DESIGNATE TO PORTUGAL  
SEBASTIAO HAS STILL NOT ARRIVED IN LISBON. NEVES CLAIMED  
THE GOP COULD NOT EXPLAIN THE DELAY AND HAS NO IDEA WHEN  
HE WILL APPEAR.

--MPLA/UNITA RECONCILIATION: AS HE HAS DONE SEVERAL TIMES  
IN THE PAST, NEVES ASKED IF THE USG HAD ANY NEW  
INFORMATION ON  
PROGRESS TOWARD MPLA/UNITA RECONCILIATION,  
OR IF WE COULD CONFIRM THAT THE SOVIETS WERE PUSHING IN  
THIS DIRECTION. HE THOUGHT IT PLAUSIBLE THAT THE SOVIETS  
MIGHT FAVOR ATTEMPTS TO ESTABLISH CONTACT BETWEEN THE  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LISBON 03702 02 OF 02 191049Z

MPLA AND UNITA SINCE THE GOP HAD RECEIVED INDICATIONS FROM EASTERN EUROPEAN DIPLOMATS THAT THE USSR DOES NOT WANT TO BE TIED TO LONG TERM EXPENSIVE SUPPORT OF ANGOLA. NEVES ADDED THAT THE GOP CONTINUED TO VIEW AS SLIM ANY CHANGES OF MPLA/UNITA TALKS.

COMMENT: BECUASE GOP IS RELATIVELY WELL INFORMED ON ANGOLA, EMBASSY HAS BEEN SELECTIVE REGARDING THE INFORMATION WE HAVE PASSES. OUR ACCESS WILL BE FACILITATED, WE BELIEVE. BY CONTINUING TO PROVIDE THE GOP WITH THE BEST THAT WE HAVE, AND OCCASIONALLY BY TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE REPEATDLY STATED PORTUGUESE DESIRE TO BE HELPFUL TO THE US ON ANGOLA.  
BLOOMFIELD

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INFORMATION EXCHANGE, POLITICAL SITUATION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978LISBON03702  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X3  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780219-0342  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** LISBON  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780545/aaaabmdy.tel  
**Line Count:** 187  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** f6ca309b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 19 apr 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2653066  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON ANGOLA SUMMARY: EMBASSY OFFICER MET WITH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA)  
AFRICAN DIRECTOR MAY 16 TO EXCHANGE  
**TAGS:** PINS, PINT, AO, PO, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/f6ca309b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014